

## **Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership**

**Executive Committee meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

**RSPB Leighton Moss Education Room at 2pm**

### **AGENDA**



1. Welcome and apologies
2. Introductions
3. Changes to Executive Committee membership
4. Annual re-endorsement of User Groups, Business and Farming representatives
5. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs
6. Minutes of meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014
7. Matters arising
8. AONB Budget 2014/2015 outturn and revised 2015/16 (report circulated)

#### **Decision required**

9. Memorandum of Agreement – verbal update
10. Progress on the AONB Development Plan Document (report circulated)
11. AONB Delivery Plan update by AONB Team and partners – verbal updates
12. AONB Planning work update (report circulated)
13. AONB Grants Fund progress update – verbal update
14. Bittern Award 2015 – request for nominations
15. Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs
16. Any Other Business
17. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

Tea and coffee will be served  
4.30pm finish

# **Arnside & Silverdale**

## **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 2.00pm  
RSPB Leighton Moss, Silverdale

#### **MINUTES**

##### **Attending**

##### **Members of the Executive Committee:**

Cllr Kevin Briggs	Warton Parish Council
Andrew Frankish	Environment Agency
Eve Hall	Local User Group (N Lancs Bridleways Association)
Robin Horner	RSPB
Joan Jackson	NFU
Brian Jones	Local User Group (Ramblers)
Ann Kitchen	Local Business (Bittern Countryside CIC)
Georgina Lofthouse	National Trust
Cllr Brian Meakin	Beetham Parish Council (Chair)
Cllr David Palfreyman	Arnside Parish Council
Cllr Keith Palmer	Silverdale Parish Council
Cllr Jane Panton	Yealand Conyers Parish Council
Maggie Robinson	Natural England
Craig Russell	Local Business (Beetham Holiday Homes)

##### **In attendance:**

Lucy Barron	AONB Manager
Barbara Henneberry	AONB Communications & Funding Officer
Tony Riden	AONB Countryside Officer
David Porter	Lancaster City Council

##### **Apologies:**

Dawn Hancock	Yealand Conyers Parish Council
David Harpley	Wildlife Trusts
Anne-Marie Harrison	Lancaster City Council
Sue Hunter	AONB Officer
Cllr Tony Johnson	Lancaster City Council
Elliott Lorimer	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Mike Macklin	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Judith Moore	CPRE/Friends of the Lake District
Colin Peacock	Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust
Lorayne Woodend	South Lakeland District Council

The meeting was preceded by a presentation by Janet Barton from Morecambe Bay Partnership on the new Morecambe Bay Cycleway which will be officially launched 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## **1 Welcome and Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies are listed above

## **2 Introductions**

- 2.1 Five new members were welcomed to the Committee – Craig Russell (Local Business), Georgina Lofthouse (National Trust), Maggie Robinson (Natural England), Cllr David Palfreyman (Arnside Parish Council) and Ann Kitchen (Local Business)

## **3 Election of Vice Chair**

- 3.1 Members were advised that the Arnside Parish Council representative, Cllr Geoff Dracup, had resigned. As he also held the position of Vice Chair of the Executive Committee, members were asked to nominate someone to take on the role. Cllr Kevin Briggs (Warton Parish Council) was nominated by Cllr Brian Meakin (Beetham Parish Council) and seconded by Robin Horner (RSPB) and agreed to carry out the role until the annual meeting in October.

**AGREED:** that Kevin Briggs be appointed to the role of Vice Chair.

## **4 Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

- 4.1 The minutes were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014

## **5 Matters arising from the minutes**

- 5.1 (8.1) The AONB Manager thanked members for their nominations for the Bittern Award. This year's recipient was Barry Ayre for his outstanding contribution to the AONB over many years, and in particular for his invaluable archive collection of information about the history and culture of the area, especially people and places of Silverdale. Barry passed away before learning of his achievement. The award was accepted by his wife Monica at the Annual Conference in January.
- 5.2 (9.1) The AONB Manager thanked members who had already written to endorse the new Management Plan and encouraged other partners to do so.
- 5.3 (15.1) The AONB Manager advised members that the permissive path into Trowbarrow from Moss Lane remains closed. This has resulted in increased use of the Public Right of Way via the barrow crossing over the railway line. We understand Lancashire County Council and Network Rail are currently exploring the feasibility of a formal diversion of this section of the PROW.
- 5.4 (15.2) Further to the request to carry out an audit of existing concessionary paths, a report was tabled by the AONB Countryside Officer. Maggie Robinson (Natural England) explained that the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme will be targeted at SSSIs and priority habitat and

species and concessionary access provision will not be part of the new scheme. Brian Jones (User Group - Ramblers) reiterated his concern that concessionary paths created under existing agreements may be lost when these agreements expire and suggested that the AONB team contact the relevant landowners to encourage them to keep the paths open.

**ACTION:** to continue to monitor the situation and to work with Natural England to contact the relevant landowners if appropriate.

**AONB  
Countryside  
Officer**

## **6 AONB Core Budget 2014/15 and 2015/16 (report circulated)**

- 6.1** Members were advised that it had been necessary to make some minor changes to the budget since the last meeting in order to effectively deliver the Business Plan. These changes were detailed in the report along with the proposed budget for 2015/16. Members' appreciation of the continued financial support of Defra, the Local Authorities and Parish Councils was noted.

**AGREED:** to note the report and approve the 2015/16 budget

## **7 AONB Team Business Plan 2015 – 2018 (report circulated)**

- 7.1** The new Business Plan 2015-18 details how the AONB Team will act to contribute to the implementation of the new AONB Management Plan. It sets out the operating context, a work programme for 2015-18, targets for 2015/16 a three-year budget summary and a risk analysis. It shows how the various areas of work will be funded and where further resources are required.
- 7.2** Brian Jones (User Group – Ramblers) requested that work to deliver the English Coastal Path be included as a target for 2015/16. Maggie Robinson (Natural England) advised members that work on delivery has been brought forward and it is now intended that the Path be completed by 2020 and that the focus is currently on Cumbria and the Morecambe Bay area. In view of this, it was agreed that action 24d of the Business Plan be amended to include appropriate support for Natural England and County Councils during 2015/16.

**ACTION:** to amend 24d to include "support for Natural England and County Councils as appropriate" during 2015/16

**AGREED:** to approve the Business Plan 2015-2018 subject to above amendment

**AONB Manager**

## **8 AONB Delivery Plan update from the AONB Team and partners**

### **8.1 The AONB Team**

The AONB Manager reported that:

- the AONB Communications & Funding post is now a job-share, with Barbara Henneberry working 0.6FTE on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and a new member of staff – Ruth Ainsworth – working 0.4FTE on Tuesdays, Wednesday mornings and Thursdays.
- a new website was launched in December that is compatible with smart phones and tablets – with revised content and spectacular images, it is hoped that visitors to the site will find it easy to use and navigate and consequently more people will be encouraged to discover the area and find out about the work of the AONB Partnership. It is still in its developmental stage, so feedback from members would be appreciated.

- two successful events have been held – the Hedgelaying Competition in November and the Annual Conference in January – and members were thanked for their support.

## 8.2 Partners

**Beetham Parish Council** reported that a legal review into the use of certain paths on the Dallam Estate is underway.

**Craig Russell (Local Business)** reported on the success of the community B4YS project (Broadband for the Yealands, Storth and Silverdale). This has positive implications for both domestic and business users. **Mike Macklin (Yealand Redmayne Parish Council)**, not present at the meeting, had also submitted the following update by email:

*The B4YS team have now installed the orange ducts for the main spur, between Borwick and Yealand and the hub cabinet is installed in Yealand Village Hall. We now need to complete the crossing of the A6 (which should be completed today, Wednesday) and a short crossing in a culvert in Borwick. We will then blow the fibre cables through the ducts from Borwick to Yealand and expect to have the system working in the Village Hall, shortly afterwards. We have started the installation of the main duct in Yealand Conyers, the route is finalised and all wayleaves are signed. We have applied for permission to cut the various road crossings in the village. The hard work of installing the system in individual properties will now commence. The main spur will go to Silverdale where route planning is now taking place. The route through Yealand Redmayne and onwards to Storth is still in the planning stage*

**National Trust** reported that a great deal of conservation management work had been carried out in Silverdale and on Arnside Knott, including scrub clearance and coppicing to improve biodiversity. Additional drystone walling volunteers are needed. The Trust has also been working with students from Cumbria and Edge Hill Universities, the local scouts and a local primary school on Forest Schools activities.

**Lancaster City Council** updated members on the National Grid's North West Coast Connections (NWCC) consultation. Three options were consulted on, with Lancaster City Council, SLDC and the AONB Partnership all indicating a preference for the tunnel under Morecambe Bay as it was considered that this option would have the least impact on the Arnside & Silverdale AONB. Consultation is now closed.

**Arnside Parish Council** confirmed that their contribution towards the AONB Partnership core costs had been increased from £200 to £400 for 2014/15.

**Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company** advised members that they were continuing to focus on renewable energy projects following on from successful installations at Storth and Silverdale schools and Leeds Children's Holiday Centre. They have also been working closely with the Silverdale & District Wood Bank and are offering small grants to enable the installation of woodburning stoves for households in fuel poverty.

**RSPB** reported on their contribution to delivery of the Nature Improvement Area project and that BBC Autumnwatch had returned to Leighton Moss in October for a second year which brought significant benefits to the area. Through the Source to Sea project funded by the Environment Agency's

Catchment Restoration Fund, they have been working alongside the AONB Team with local landowners to tackle diffuse pollution around Leighton Moss. They have also provided support for a Morecambe Bay wide nature tourism project and efforts have been made to ensure nature and landscape are high on the agenda of the new Morecambe Bay destination brand.

**Silverdale Parish Council** reported growing concern about the closure of the permissive path into Trowbarrow. The Council is working to see cycle racks installed at the Gaskell Hall. The contribution towards the AONB Partnership's core costs had been maintained at £700.

**Yealand Conyers Parish Council** confirmed the progress being made with bringing hyperfast broadband to the parish. The Council representative was not aware of the NWCC consultation and said she would ensure this matter was raised at the next council meeting.

**The Environment Agency** reported that work was ongoing in trying to improve water quality monitoring at Leighton Moss and Hawes Water.

**The Landscape Trust** reported the events programme for 2015 is now available.

**Natural England** reported that the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme will be launched on 13<sup>th</sup> March. New to the scheme is funding for a facilitator role to enable multiple landowners to join together to submit an application. The first grants will start in January 2016.

## **9 AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) progress update**

**9.1** Since the last meeting in October, the housing needs survey has been carried out and the reports are available to read on the AONB website. The "Call for Sites" process has also been completed, with the Councils receiving approximately 30 suggestions. The suggested sites now need to be assessed using an agreed methodology, with the results of this assessment to be published in early summer. Consultants have been appointed to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan. The next consultation on the "Issues & Options" will take place in September.

Q: When will the final decision be made?

A: The draft plan should be available in Spring 2016, and the final plan in late 2016/early 2017.

Q: Does the plan just cover housing – what about caravans/second homes?

A: The Plan will differentiate between the purposes of allocation ie housing, employment, open community space etc.

The AONB Manager added that as part of the DPD, conservation officers at both Lancaster City Council and SLDC are compiling Local Heritage Lists which recognise important heritage features of the area.

## **10 Planning work programme update (report circulated)**

**10.1** The report showed that 169 planning applications were reviewed in 2014, with 35 responses submitted, and already in 2015, 32 applications reviewed, with 12 responses submitted.

**10.2** The AONB Manager advised members that the revised Planning Protocol would be circulated with the minutes.

**AONB Manager**

**ACTION:** to circulate the revised Planning Protocol with the minutes

**11 Volunteer work programme update (report circulated)**

**11.1** The report emphasises the very significant contribution made by the AONB volunteers to conserving and enhancing the area, the range of community participation and the large amount of conservation management work carried out at a number of sites within the AONB, including the two Local Nature Reserves owned by Lancaster City Council.

**12 SDF update (report circulated)**

**12.1** As agreed at the meeting in October, 2014/15 is to be the last year of the fund. Despite working with a much smaller pot of money than in previous years at £7400, we have still been able to support four very worthwhile projects, all of which are helping to deliver the AONB Management Plan.

**12.2** It is hoped to produce an end of project report, including case studies of some of the more successful schemes, which will be made available on the AONB website in due course.

**12.3** Looking ahead, the AONB Team is now working with the Landscape Trust to explore the feasibility of establishing a new AONB small grants fund later in 2015. Progress with this will be reported at the next meeting.

**ACTION:** to report on progress at the October meeting

**AONB Manager**

**13 Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs**

**13.1** A full update will be circulated with the minutes but the AONB Manager took the opportunity to stress the benefits of the NAAONB to individual AONBs, in particular the NAAONB's role in securing Defra funding and presenting a collective profile at a national level, developing relationships with national bodies and government departments. Individual AONBs have also benefitted from working collaboratively on specific projects such as the Community Energy Peer Mentoring project for which the NAAONB secured funding from DECC, but was delivered locally by 3 AONBs, including Arnsdale & Silverdale.

**ACTION:** to circulate the NAAONB update

**AONB Manager**

**14 Any other business**

**14.1** Members were reminded that the deadline for comments on the draft Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment is Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**Dates for your diary**

**The Common** – a thought-provoking play about Landscape, currently touring the country's Nature Improvement Areas

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 5pm**

Venue: RSPB Leighton Moss

**Apple Day**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 10am – 4pm**

Venue: Orchard Barn, Briery Bank, Arnsdale

**Executive Committee meeting**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2pm**

Venue: Education Room, RSPB Leighton Moss

Signed ..... Date: .....



**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 14.10.15**

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Title of report: AONB Budget outturn 2014/15 and revised 2015/16**

**Report prepared by: Barbara Henneberry, AONB Funding and  
Communications Officer and Lucy Barron, AONB Manager**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

**To provide the Committee with details of the 2014/15 AONB budget outturn  
and revised budget for financial year 2015/16**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (1) that the Committee notes the 2014/15 budget outturn**
- (2) that the Committee approves the revised 2015/16 budget**

**Background**

The 2015/16 budget has been revised to take into account of a number of changes and to enable effective delivery of the AONB Business Plan.

**Arnside & Silverdale AONB Budget 2014/15 and 2015/16**

	<b>2014/15 budget revised</b>	<b>2014/15 outturn</b>	<b>2015/16 agreed Mar 2015</b>	<b>2015/16 revised Oct 2015</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>£</b>	
<b>Staff Costs</b>				
Salaries, NI, Pensions	124400	124587	130934	129100
Travel and subsistence	2600	2651	3200	3200
Training	900	882	2000	1500
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>127900</b>	<b>128120</b>	<b>136134</b>	<b>133800</b>
<b>Accommodation / office equipment</b>				
Repair and maintenance	2000	1993	1200	1300
Cleaning				1000
Electricity	700	559	700	700
Other energy charges	600	583	600	600
Rent	3100	3120	3100	3100
Rates	1900	1872	1900	1900
Water services	100	116	100	100
Premises insurance	800	811	800	400
Telephones	1500	1830	1300	1900
Office equipment	500	479	1600	800
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>11200</b>	<b>11363</b>	<b>11300</b>	<b>11800</b>
<b>Communications and events</b>				
Printing and stationery	800	823	800	800
Exhibitions and events	1400	1385	1600	4100
Communications and publicity	4200	4934	3100	3100
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>6400</b>	<b>7142</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>8000</b>
<b>Partnership running costs</b>				
Executive Committee support inc Annual Conference	1400	1413	1400	1400
NAAONB Membership	2500	2500	2500	2500
Host authority recharges – Accountancy, internal audit & ICT	8300	8327	8100	8100
Host authority recharges – other (provided in kind)	11700	11335	12400	12400
Employee related insurance	1100	1112	1100	1100
Repair and maintenance (vehicles)	700	694	500	500
Petrol and derv	700	592	700	700
Vehicle licence	500	503	500	500
Transport related insurance	800	763	800	900
Equipment and tools	1000	971	1000	2000
PPE (clothing and uniform)	300	98	300	300
Consultants	24800	24724	6045	7400
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>53800</b>	<b>53032</b>	<b>35345</b>	<b>37800</b>
<b>Other Management Plan Implementation</b>				
AONB projects and community engagement programme	14700	12293	4000	14600
Community Energy Peer Mentoring project	9000	7655	0	0
Local Nature Reserves management programme	13900	12112	6120	6120
Sustainable Development Fund	7400	7343	0	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>45000</b>	<b>39403</b>	<b>10120</b>	<b>20720</b>
<b>Reserve</b>				
Contribution to reserve	0	0	3600	3600
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>3600</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>244300</b>	<b>239060</b>	<b>201999</b>	<b>215720</b>

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2014/15 budget revised</b>	<b>2014/15 outturn</b>	<b>2015/16 agreed Mar 2015</b>	<b>2015/16 revised Oct 2015</b>
<b>Local authority financial contributions</b>				
Cumbria County Council	8800	8805	8805	8800
Lancashire County Council	8300	8275	8275	8300
Lancaster City Council	15000	15100	15200	15100
South Lakeland District Council	11500	11500	11500	11500
Income in advance b/f from previous year	5700	5668		5400
Less Income in advance c/f to following year		-5409		
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>49300</b>	<b>43939</b>	<b>43780</b>	<b>49100</b>
<b>Other income</b>				
Defra grant	133200	133260	133199	133200
Parish Council contributions and contracting income	6500	8605	6500	6500
Other income inc project management fees	9000	12662	0	3800
LNR grants income	13900	12112	6120	6120
Income in advance b/f from previous year	4700	4737		3600
Less Income in advance c/f to following year		-3590		
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>167300</b>	<b>167786</b>	<b>145819</b>	<b>153220</b>
<b>Reserve</b>				
Transfer out of reserve	16000	16000		1000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>16000</b>	<b>16000</b>		<b>1000</b>
<b>Host authority in kind</b>				
Lancaster City Council in kind support	11700	11335	12400	12400
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>11700</b>	<b>11335</b>	<b>12400</b>	<b>12400</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>244300</b>	<b>239060</b>	<b>201999</b>	<b>215720</b>

<b>Vehicle, plant &amp; machinery reserve</b>	<b>15/16</b>
Balance as at 31/03/15	25846
Proposed expenditure re purchase of equipment	-1000
Proposed expenditure re purchase of new Land Rover	-25189
Land Rover trade-in - estimated	12000
Annual budgeted contribution into reserve	3600
Projected balance in reserve at year end	15257

## **NOTES**

2015/16

- Salary saving due to AONB Manager taking extended unpaid leave in August
- More training delivered in-house or through the NAAONB
- Increased Premises Repair & Maintenance costs incurred due to works required to connect the office to the LCC Network and to resolve drainage problems
- Cleaning – advised by LCC that it needs to be listed under a separate expenditure code (previously included in R&M)
- Premises insurance – advised by LCC of saving
- Office equipment – virement to cover additional R & M costs. All staff now have new LCC computers, so lower budget required for this year
- Exhibitions & Events – increased expenditure mainly relates to Apple Day, a bi-ennial event so funds brought forward from 14/15 to cover
- Equipment & Tools – transfer of £1000 out of the reserve to cover essential purchases to enable effective delivery of the AONB volunteer programme
- Consultants – budget increase to reflect saving on salaries and training
- AONB projects and community engagement programme – additional income generated in 2014/15 brought forward in order to deliver Management Plan implementation and an additional £3800 received from the Bittern Countryside CIC this year to enable the installation of solar panels on the AONB office
- Capital purchase of new Land Rover approved by Lancaster City Council

**Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 14 October 2015**

**AGENDA ITEM 10**

**Title of report: Progress on the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document**

**Report prepared by: David Porter (Lancaster City Council) and Lorayne Woodend (South Lakeland District Council)**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To brief Executive Committee on the work undertaken and planned for the production of a Development Plan Document for the area covered by the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB, prepared jointly on behalf of Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Executive Committee notes the progress with the preparation of the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document and proposed next steps.

**Introduction**

Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council are preparing a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The AONB is nationally designated, the primary purpose of designation being to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. It is home to around 7,000 people and contains a range of businesses and public services. When adopted, the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document will establish allocations of land for development, as well as consistent designations and policies for the conservation of the environment for the next 15 years. It will also be a key element in the delivery of the AONB Management Plan which was adopted in April 2014.

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) places a duty on all local authorities to pay due regard to the purpose of AONB designation in carrying out their functions.

The Management Plan sets the overall vision for the AONB, whilst the main purpose of the DPD is to manage development. The DPD will undergo an independent examination by a government appointed planning inspector, and when adopted the DPD will form part of the statutory development plans for Lancaster and South Lakeland Districts. As such it will have great weight in making planning decisions.

This report sets out the key stages in the preparation of the plan, the progress made to date, and the programme for the next stages.

## The Planning Process

The DPD will bring up to date the existing planning policies for the AONB, and will ensure that both district councils' planning policies for the AONB are consistent. In Lancaster, the existing development plan comprises:

- Lancaster Core Strategy (2008)
- Lancaster Development Management Policies DPD (2014)
- Saved policies from the Lancaster District Local Plan (2004)

In South Lakeland, the existing development plan comprises:

- South Lakeland Core Strategy (2010)
- South Lakeland Land Allocations (2013)
- Extant policies of the 'saved' Local Plan (2006)

The process for preparing Development Plan Documents is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF requires local planning authorities to meet their objectively assessed needs for development and infrastructure. Plans must adopt the most appropriate strategy based on a consideration of the alternatives, be deliverable and viable, and be consistent with national policy.

The NPPF also gives specific guidance for development planning and decision making in relation to AONBs. It confirms that 'great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty' and that AONBs 'have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty'.

The DPD must define the area, set its purpose and the timeframe for the policies and allocations to operate. It must review the evidence available and set about collecting new evidence to fill any gaps. The DPD needs to assess the development needs for the area; one of the key development topics concerns housing, and research into the housing needs and availability of sites for housing development will help develop policies and allocations for this land use. The DPD must also consider the need and ability to provide for infrastructure, and for employment and community uses, including business premises, shops and open space. Importantly, the DPD must record and give protection to nature conservation, landscape and built heritage significances, and find the right balance between development and conservation.

The DPD will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to help ensure that the choices made avoid or can mitigate against certain environmental impacts. The SA and HRA processes will be refined as the DPD is amended at its key stages.

## Work to date

A **Memorandum of Understanding** has been drawn up by the two councils to help guide the joint working. This is underpinned by both councils setting out the timetable and scope of the plan in their respective Local Development Schemes. A Working Group has been established to organise work, comprising officers from the two councils and from the AONB Team; this means that spatial planning is aligned with the Management Plan and the practical experience of managing the landscape significances in the area.

A **Communications Plan** has been prepared to ensure that all interested parties are involved at key points in the plan-making process, to help communicate key messages, and take soundings from the community to inform the plan-making process.

The NPPF requires councils to calculate the objective assessment of need for housing development in their plan areas. This measure includes calculating the need for affordable (or subsidised) housing, as well as the demand for market housing.

A **Housing Needs Study** was undertaken in June 2014 for all six parishes within the AONB, by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust. The results of that study show in some detail the nature and scale of need for affordable housing in the area, and give the councils evidence that they can use to make policies to encourage or require developers to provide a proportion of affordable housing in any new development. During the research, officers from the two councils met with colleagues from the Lake District National Park Authority to understand more about their policy approaches to managing development in nationally protected landscapes.

Overall the Housing Needs Study showed that:

- The AONB population has an older age profile than that overall in Lancaster of South Lakeland Districts;
- 72 people indicated a need for affordable housing over the next 5 years;
- The main affordable need is for 1 or 2 bedroomed properties, followed by 3+ bedroomed dwellings;
- The main tenure need is for rented property;
- There is a significant number of people who need to move but are not in need of affordable housing;
- Two thirds of respondents support the construction of new dwellings for local residents;
- A similar proportion stated that there is a lack of suitable housing to meet their needs; and
- A high proportion of the respondents expressed the need to conserve the landscape and protect the significances of the AONB.

A **Call for Sites** exercise was undertaken between December 2014 and February 2015, seeking information on sites that could be suitable for development, or suitable for protection from development, during the plan period. A total of 117 sites were put forward initially, and this number will increase when the Parish Councils submit their open space suggestions for sites to be protected within the built up areas of the parishes. Sites have been suggested by land owners, developers, parish councils, charities and community groups. All sites proposed will be consulted upon through the Issues and Options consultation stage. They will be formally assessed for their suitability using a consistent site assessment methodology that was developed following consultation in April 2015. Following the assessment and consultation processes, the Councils will decide which sites to allocate for development or protection in the draft Plan when it is published in 2016.

In the context of joint preparation of the AONB DPD, the two councils are also working to a common timetable on **built heritage** matters, which can then be taken into account in emerging AONB DPD policies.

Lancaster has drafted a list of **Locally Important Buildings and Structures** for its part of the AONB, and South Lakeland is working in partnership to identify a similar draft list of candidate buildings in the north of the AONB. This would fulfil an aspiration of Policy CS8.6 of the South Lakeland Core Strategy and also comply with Objective 9 - Action 9.16 in the AONB Management Plan. These draft lists will be subject to public consultation, including a heritage event, in February or March 2016. The outcome could then be taken into account

at the draft Plan stage of the DPD in summer 2016, which may include suitable policies relating to Locally Important Buildings and Structures.

In addition, South Lakeland carried out an assessment in 2012/13 for a **conservation area designation** in Arnside, following a request by the AONB Executive Committee. South Lakeland District Council plan to consult on a proposed Conservation Area in Arnside early in 2016, so that the outcome can also be taken into account in the emerging AONB DPD. This would fulfil in part Objective 9 – Action 9.2 of the AONB Management Plan.

A wide range of additional survey information exists for the AONB area, and will be drawn into the plan-making process. This includes mapping the landscape and environmental significances of the area, as well as flood risk, infrastructure, community facilities, open space and employment premises information.

## Next Steps

The two Councils are preparing to begin an **Issues & Options** consultation, which will take place between **6 November and 18 December 2015**. This is the first formal consultation stage for the DPD. It will set out the key aspects that the DPD seeks to address, and invite consultation on:

- The Vision and Objectives. These should reflect the aspirations set out in the Management Plan, the two relevant Local Plans, national policy, the evidence gathered and the wider context;
- The most important planning policy issues facing the AONB; and
- Options for meeting the objectives and delivering the Vision in the AONB.

The style of presentation at the Issues and Options stage is to put forward informed ideas before any decisions on the Plan are taken by the Councils. It will conclude each section with questions designed to draw out comments on the key issues and options, but will not contain any definite proposals to allocate sites, or any proposed policy wording. The site suggestions will all be published alongside the Issues & Options, and responses invited on their suitability for the uses proposed.

The Issues and Options stage consultation aims to involve as many local people as possible in the plan-making process. In addition to press coverage and website information, every residential household in the AONB will receive a postcard notifying them of the opportunity to have their say. Drop in exhibitions will also be held between 2pm and 7pm on at each of the following locations and dates:

- Monday 16 November: Storth Village Hall, Storth (small room)
- Thursday 19 November, Warton Village Hall (small room)
- Wednesday 25 November, Gaskell Memorial Hall, Silverdale (green room)
- Monday 30 November, Arnside Educational Institute (JN room)
- Tuesday 1 December, Heron Theatre, Beetham
- Wednesday 2 December, Yealand Village Hall (small room)

The timetable for the remainder of the plan preparation is expected to be as follows:

- November/December 2015: Issues and Options consultation
- Summer 2016: Draft Plan consultation
- Early 2017: Publication and Submission of the Plan
- Summer 2017: Public Examination of the Plan
- Autumn 2017: Adoption of the AONB Development Plan Document



## **Summary**

This report summarises the work done to date by Lancaster and South Lakeland Councils, with assistance from the AONB Team, in preparing a Development Plan Document for the AONB. It also outlines the next stages of the work programme, which involves the publication of an Issues and Options consultation between 6 November and 18 December 2015.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 14.10.15**

**AGENDA ITEM 12**

**Title of report: Planning work update**

**Report prepared by: Sue Hunter, AONB Officer**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To provide the Committee with an update on planning and development management work carried out by the AONB Team on behalf of the AONB Partnership

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(1)** that the Committee notes the report on planning work

**Introduction**

The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and development management and planning are a key element in achieving this.

**Background**

The AONB Executive Committee is a consultee on planning matters, both planning policy and planning applications; it is not a decision maker. Planning decisions are made by the relevant local planning authority.

Planning policies for AONBs are contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. AONB designation and the AONB Management Plan are material considerations in the planning process. Management Plans are adopted statutory policy of the local authority.

**Planning applications**

All planning applications within the AONB are reviewed and also any applications outside, but potentially impacting on, the AONB. Records are kept of all applications reviewed by the AONB Team and the responses made.

A summary is given below of the total number of applications reviewed in 2015 to date; the number of applications per individual parish is given. The number of formal responses submitted to the planning authorities is also given.

#### Planning applications reviewed so far in 2015

Arnside	37
Silverdale	39
Beetham	11
Yealand Conyers	3
Yealand Redmayne	8
Warton	30
<b>Total within AONB</b>	<b>128</b>
Outside AONB	12
 <b>Total no. applications</b>	 <b>140</b>
<b>Responses submitted</b>	<b>35</b>

Of the responses submitted since the last Executive Committee meeting, 12 included formal objections to the proposed development. These applications are listed below, with the final planning decisions noted (where available), and a brief summary given of the reasons for refusal where these reflect the AONB Partnership's reasons for objection.

**15/00193/FUL Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a detached dwelling at Red Bridge, Moss Lane, Silverdale.** Refused on grounds of unsustainable open countryside location, erosion of the open nature of the landscape in this locality, detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the AONB.

**15/00332/OUT Outline application for the erection of one dwelling at Ferndene, Wallings Lane, Silverdale – withdrawn.**

**SL/2015/0388 Siting of single wind turbine at Deerslet, Burton – granted.**

**15/00509/FUL Erection of 4 bed dwelling and garage in the garden and a replacement garage for the existing dwelling at 55 Stankelt Road, Silverdale – granted**

**15/00449/FUL Erection of a detached dwelling with associated new access at Bank Barn, Crag Road, Warton – awaiting decision.**

**15/00643/FUL Erection of a ground floor and first floor extension to existing garage to incorporate a hobby/guest room at first floor level and construction of a balcony to the rear at Haweswater Bungalow, Moss Lane, Silverdale.** Refused - proposed alterations would result in a disproportionate and incongruous form of development which would not relate well to the existing property in terms of design, scale and materials. As such the proposal would be detrimental to the visual amenity of the site and the wider A&S AONB.

**15/00720/REM Reserved Matters Application for the development of 21 residential dwellings with associated access at Mill Lane, Warton.** Independent assessment to be undertaken regarding the amount of affordable housing to be provided.

**SL/2015/0627 Installation of a single wind turbine measuring 30m to hub and 45m to blade tip with associated infrastructure and access track at Green Dragon Farm, Burton – granted.**

**15/00833/CU Change of use of land for the siting of 9 holiday lodges with associated parking, Scout Crag Caravan Park, Warton - awaiting decision.**

**15/01000/OUT Outline application for the erection of three 4 bed dwellings and new access, Land north of 113 Main St, Warton – awaiting decision.**

**15/01066/FUL Excavation of land to extend basement and creation of a below ground garage with terrace above, change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage and creation of a new driveway and turning/parking area, and erection of single storey side and 2 storey rear extensions, Glenside, Redbridge Lane, Silverdale – awaiting decision.**

**SL/2015/0740 Change of use from permanent siting of touring caravans (seasonal occupancy) to permanent siting of static caravans (restricted occupancy), Hall More Caravan Park, Hale, Milnthorpe – awaiting decision.**

Formal objections made to applications reported at the last Executive meeting but where a planning decision had not been made at the time include:

**14/01374/CU Change of use of land previously used in connection with quarry for the siting of 10 holiday cabins, Land adjoining Scout Crag Caravan Park, New Road, Warton, Carnforth, Lancashire, LA5 9RY. Refused - visually intrusive and will significantly alter the nature and character of the site which is within the AONB.**

**SL/2014/1226 Outline permission for single dwelling at land north of Holly Cottage, Storth Road, Storth – granted.**

Having reviewed the types of planning applications made recently within the AONB and the decisions made by the two planning authorities, there are a number of points to highlight:

1. Detrimental impact on the landscape character and visual amenity of the AONB has been included in several reasons for refusal.
2. Large scale dwellings (3/4/5 bed houses) are being permitted despite not meeting demonstrable affordable/local need. If suitable sites such as brownfield or other appropriate sites are not utilised to help meet the local need for affordable housing, this will lead to increased pressure to develop other more sensitive sites which contribute significantly more to landscape character and biodiversity of the area.
3. The cumulative impact on the setting of the AONB and on views out from the AONB of renewable energy development (particularly along the M6/A6 corridor) is increasing:
  - Wind turbines - there are a number of wind turbines already permitted in this area (such as at Burton Motorway Services, Intack Farm, Nether Kellet, Deerslet Farm, Burton, Greenlands Farm) and a further application

at Green Dragon Farm, Burton, has just been granted. The AONB Partnership has expressed concerns regarding the cumulative impact of such developments in our responses.

- Solar farms – two applications for solar farms have been made over recent months in the wider area around the AONB, one to the north west of Cartmel and the other to the south of Kirkby Lonsdale. Natural England have been in contact to see if the AONB Partnership had any concerns but neither were visible from the AONB. Of more concern are two further upcoming proposals just to the east of the AONB, alongside the M6. An application has been submitted in the last couple of weeks for one of these sites, off Cinderbarrow Lane to the east of Yealand Conyers, which we will be responding to in due course; the other, off Tarn Lane about 1km north of the Cinderbarrow site, has not yet been submitted as a formal application. Both are likely to have an impact on the setting of and views out from the AONB.

### **Other planning application issues**

#### **Silverdale Village Institute**

A proposal was submitted in July for a skate park, a multi-use games area and running track at the Village Institute in Silverdale, which has been highly controversial locally. The application incorrectly stated that the AONB are “very supportive and happy with our [Silverdale Village Institute’s] projects”. This statement was not correct and an apology from the applicant has subsequently been received by the AONB Team. This statement caused a great deal of concern locally and a Freedom of Information request was made by local residents regarding correspondence between the applicant and the AONB Team; this was dealt with by Lancaster City Council.

A formal response to this application was made on behalf of the AONB Partnership, following consultation with the Planning Sub-Group, acknowledging that the proposal may have some impacts locally but that it was not considered likely that the proposal would result in a significant detrimental impact to the overall landscape character of the AONB. The response also clarified that the AONB Partnership remains wholly independent from residents’ groups and does not specifically support local campaigns for or against any kinds of planning applications or proposals and that all planning applications are independently assessed on their own merits. The application has since been withdrawn.

#### **Beetham Hall Crematorium Appeal**

The proposal to create a crematorium at Beetham Hall was refused by South Lakeland District Council in October last year. Letters of objection were submitted by the AONB Partnership to both initial and amended plans.

An Appeal was made against the decision in March this year and initially this was to be dealt with on the basis of written submissions. A written submission was made on behalf of the AONB Partnership expressing a continuing objection to the proposals. It was then decided by the Planning Inspectorate that the Appeal was to proceed as an Informal Hearing. The Hearing took place on 11th August at Kendal Town Hall and

the AONB Partnership was represented by Sue Hunter. We are awaiting the Inspector's decision.

#### **Other planning related work**

- National Grid North West Coast Connections project – Stakeholder Reference Group meetings attended and also specialist workshops. The final route decision was made in June (onshore south from Moorside across the Furness peninsula to Barrow and then in a tunnel beneath Morecambe Bay to Heysham). Since then, comments have been provided on the EIA Scoping Report
- Consultations responded to on behalf of the AONB Partnership:
  - North West River Basin Management Plan (Environment Agency)
  - Marine Management Organisation Plan Review
  - Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan
  - AONB DPD Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and Site Assessment Methodology
- AONB Planning Protocol updated
- Planning protocol between Natural England and the AONB Partnership drafted
- Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment – work has been undertaken with Lancashire County Council to finalise the document in response to the consultation carried out earlier in 2015. The final document is imminent and will be published shortly subject to approval by this Committee.

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**AGENDA ITEM 14**

**Title of report: The Bittern Award 2015**

**Report prepared by: Lucy Barron, AONB Manager**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To invite nominations for the Bittern Award 2014

**RECOMMENDATION:**

(1) that members of the Committee note the report and submit nominations by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

**Introduction**

Each year the Bittern Award is presented to a group, organisation or individual who has made an '*outstanding contribution*' to the Arnside & Silverdale AONB.

**Background**

The Bittern Award was donated by former AONB Manager, Ian Henderson, on his retirement in 2008. Previous recipients include:

**2014** Barry Ayre – for his outstanding contribution over many years including his pulling together an historical archive and also as editor of Keer to Kent

**2013** David Mower – for his work as Warden at RSPB Leighton Moss and outstanding commitment to nature conservation in the AONB

**2012** Ann Kitchen – for her work as Chair of the Bittern Community Interest Company, in particular for setting up the AONB community solar photovoltaics initiative; and also her longstanding contribution to biodiversity recording as part of the Arnside Natural History Society

**2011** Peter Goulder and Sheila Porter – for their work to restore an important heritage orchard within the AONB and for hosting successful Apple Days in 2011 and 2009

**2010** Martin Wain and Butterfly Conservation – for their work to conserve High Brown Fritillary butterflies in the AONB

**2009** Colin Peacock – for his longstanding commitment as AONB Executive Committee Chairman and involvement in the governance of the AONB since its designation

Nominations for the Bittern Award 2014 are requested by 1<sup>st</sup> December. The Bittern Award will be announced and presented at the AONB Conference in January 2016.

